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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

House of Representatives

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS
SUBCOMMITTEE

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

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June 4, 1976

Honorable George Bush
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Bush:

This is in connection with your letter of June 2, 1976 to Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott regarding a request for release from the moratorium on destruction of documents.

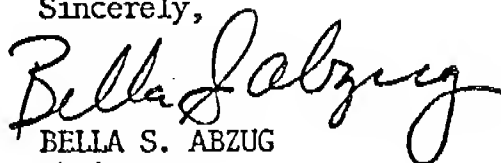
I am surprised, in light of your testimony before this Subcommittee on April 28, 1976, that you did not see fit to share with this Subcommittee your request to the Senate leadership. You are, of course, aware of my position, as the principal sponsor of H.R. 12039, that no records which might comprise the subject matter of that legislation be destroyed before the Congress has had an opportunity to pass on it. I am taking this opportunity to reiterate that request and urge that you withdraw your letter to Senator Scott insofar as it affects files which might be covered by H.R. 12039.

Beyond the concerns of this legislation, however, I am surprised that your request is framed as broadly as it is. I would expect that the Senate leadership would have no objection to the resumption of the destruction of "routine administrative records", but I have urged them to reject any request for destruction of records "which were subject to investigation" by the Rockefeller Commission and the Select Committee. This could include records which neither body ever saw, but merely "were subject to" investigation. Your request presumably would include files and records relating to assassinations of foreign leaders and other matters which may be of continuing interest to various Congressional committees.

In light of the above, I urge you to rethink your request and to withdraw it.

In addition, I would ask immediate clarification of the closing comment in your June 2 letter to Senator Scott: "I trust you agree that this action is now necessary and appropriate, and I would appreciate your confirmation of this understanding." Although I disagree with your position, I interpret that statement to mean that you will not act to destroy any document until the Senate leadership has affirmatively responded to your request. Please correct me if your intention is to act prior to such reply.

Sincerely,



BELLA S. ABZUG
Chairwoman